

A Strange and Wonderful
RELATION
FROM
SHADVEL

O-R,
The DEVIL Visible.

BEING

A most true and faithful account how the Devil
in human Shape, on the 3^d. of this Instant
July, made his Appearance to a Gentle-
woman there, (a person that had formerly lived
well, but now reduced to poverty) with a
Bag of Money in one hand, and a Knife
in the other, tempting her to Murther
one of her Children.

As also how she refused, and resisted his Temp-
tation, Imploring the Prayers of her Neigh-
bours, of whom, two plainly saw this evil
Spirit, going forth of the House.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *W. Smith*, in the Year, 1674.

A Strange and Wonderful

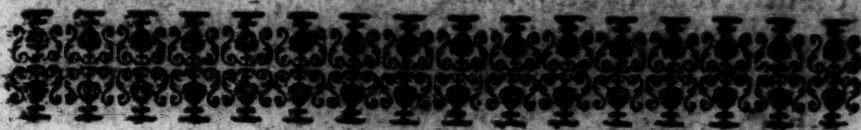
CHADWELL

A most true and faithful account of the
in this strange and wonderful
woman, and her husband, who were
well, but now reduced to poverty, and a
Bag of Money in one hand, and a Knife
in the other, appearing to Murder
one of her Children.

As also how she repented, and relined his Tunes
in the Prison, and the Prisoners of her Neigh-
bours, who were two, and saw this evil
Spirit going forth of the House.

L O N D O N

Printed for W. Smith, in the Year, 1674



A

*Strange and Wonderful Relation from
Shadwell,*

O R,

The Devil visible.

THough the prodigious swarm of Pamphlets, which of late the over-teeming Press hath Spawn'd into the World, may have rendred in a great measure, such Relations both suspected and Contemptible; yet the certainty of the matter that Impregnates this sheet, the nearness of the place where it happened, and the notoriouſness of the thing, seems not only to deserve, but challenge and require, that a full and faithful Account thereof should be presented to the publique; Since the same is done not so much to gratify peoples vain Curiosity, or tickle those Itching Ears which (like the Idle Athenians of old) are perpetually Listening after strange Novelties. As to Alarm and awaken all, by so fresh and present an

Example to stand upon their Watch, and Guard themselves (as they value the safety and Salvation of their precious Immortal Souls) with the whole Armor of God, but especially the shield of Faith, against the Assaults of the Tempter.

For though it be most true, as the Sacred Oracles of Divine Writ testify, that this restless Enemy of mankind's peace and happiness, hath ever since he beguiled our first Parents in Paradize, gone too and fro as a roaring Lion, seeking whom he may devour. Yet we find by two woful Experience, that in this latter and worst Age of the World, his malicious and Hellish Industry is encreased more than ever; And (as all things move with a Swifter and more violent motion the nearer they approach to their Center) so this dreadful Tyrant Prince of the Air, apprehending his Chain to shrink, and that he must shortly be tumbled into, and confined for Eternity in that bottomless Pit, prepared for him and his seduced Servants; Endeavours with greater diligence and more openly to spread his Nets, and Inveagle as many as he can into the same Lake of Perdition with himself.

For certainly no good Considerate Christian, can but with grief of Soul have observed, what a plentiful (but most deplorable) Harvest he has lately made amongst us, by those numbers that in or about this very City, have been drawn by his subtle suggestions; and the mediation of ~~dispar~~ within few weeks, last past, to lay violent hands upon themselves, and cut off the thred of their own Lives, by hanging themselves, drowning themselves, breaking their

own Necks, cutting their own Throats, and the like
 sad means wherewith our Laws are daily Alarm'd,
 Contrary both to the Laws of God, and dictates of
 Nature, in whose Charter self-preservation has been
 always accounted the first Article.

But this Proemium (though if soberly considered,
 not altogether Impertinent) may perhaps seem too
 great a Gate for so small a Fabrique, and therefore
 we hasten to the intended matter, being much and
 briefly thus.

In the Parish of *St. Paul Shadwell* (lately made
 so by Act of Parliament, being formerly a Hamlet
 or part of *Stepney*) lives a Woman, who descended
 of good Parents, who beſides the Precious Legacy
 of an honest Fame left her, when they paid that debt
 which we all owe to Nature, a handsome Compe-
 tency of the Goods of Fortune, ſhe having to the
 value of three hundred Pounds to her Portion;
 And being left by their deceaſe in ſo Creditable a
 Condition, wholly at her own diſpoſe, ſhe Spun not
 on the Thread of her Life very many Years, before
 ſhe twiſted it in Matrimony. Being Match'd ſome
 Years ſince to an honeſt Seaman of good repute,
 nam'd *James*, whoſe promiſing Industry aſſiſted by
 her before mentioned Fortune, ſeem'd to beſpeak
 their marriage happy, and probably aſſure to the re-
 mainder of their lives a comfortable ſubſiſtence;
 But as truth it ſelf has told us, *That the Race is not*
always to the Swift, ſo Experience daily convinces that
 there is a vaſt difference between human likelyhoods
 and the Miſterious decrees of Fate. For notwith-
 ſtanding

standing these advantages by some unhappy accidents rather than defaults properly chargeable on either of them, their estate began sensibly to waste, and in time to be totally consumed, that they were now reduced to the very Brink of necessity, having not sufficient left to maintain or provide Bread for her self, and several small Children which she had brought into the World, the thoughts of whose pining and half starving Condition, and Consideration of her Husbands absence (who is at present gone a long voyage to Sea) so that she could not for a long time expect any Relief from him, put this poor distressed Woman of late into such a melancholly grief, that seem'd to border on despair, so that she was seldom alone, but she was bewailing her misfortunes with passionate Complaints, whilst her languishing Checks over-flow'd with a briny ocean of Tears.

Satan (that has ever Tutor'd wicked Politicians to Fish in troubled waters) was not wanting here to practise that Maxim himself. That subtle degraded *Seraphin* knows too well, that want is one of the readiest and most open Inlets for his Temptations, and therefore designs, whilst her mind is tost in this dismal Tempest, to Ship-wreck her Soul.

For on the third of *July* last, she being extraordinarily strained, so that she knew not what to do, and being retired (as is usual with melancholly distressed and afflicted persons) up into a Chamber, that with more freedom she might bemoan her Condition, In broad day light this ever busy Tempter presents himself to her, who, having at her coming into the Room shut the doory which still to her apprehension

(1)
tion had Continued last, was not a little surprized to
see a man (as by his form she at first Judged him to
be) there intruding on her privacy, and standing Just
by her, But was much more astonisht, when she be-
held in his right hand a naked knife, and in the other
a large Purse filled as it were with money, and was
Just ready to cry out when this Apparition began
to speak to her.

Who spoke in smooth language, and a low but shrill
Insinuating voice represents, 'That he well knew her
'wants and distress, and that he came there on pur-
'pose in pity to relieve them, But that if she would
'not hearken to his advice, she should be ten times
'more miserable than she was at present; For her
'Husband was dead, and no succour to be expected
'from him. [mark here the truth of the Gospel, say-
ing, the Devil was a Lyar from the beginning.] That
she had a most Insupportable Charge of Children,
and that she should never be happy till she had
lessen'd their number, that her youngest Child which
then (poor Babe) happened to be Innocently sleep-
ing on a Bed in the same Room, besides the present
miseries it suffered, was born to much greater mis-
fortunes which it must undergo, and therefore she
should now come and dispatch it from those afflict-
ions and ease her own Charge, by Killing of it,
which he would secure her should never be known
or discovered, and that thereupon he would give her
all that money in the Purse (holding it forth) and
more from time to time, so that she should never
want, and upon that proffered her the Knife to Exe-
cute what he perswaded her to.

The poor Woman in a fright, and Just Indignation at this horrid bloody proposal, and some other Symptoms, concluding it could be no other but the Devil, which could advise her to such a barbarous Impiety, began with a devout fervency to detect an Action so abominable, and calling on the name of the Lord, run down stairs and into the Street, where meeting some of her Neighbours at the door, she with an amazing vehemency, intreated their Prayers to God for her Protection.

Immediately after her coming down, two of these Neighbours plainly saw the likeness of a tall man in black Habit come down stairs, and so into the street by them, but he did not seem to walk as men do, but rather glide along like a shadow, and at a small distance disappeared, but though they spoke and pointed at it, yet, neither the woman nor any of the rest could then see it.

Several Divines and other sober persons have been since with her, who confirm the truth of this Relation, and for this latter part these two other persons are both ready to attest it, for the Satisfaction of any judicious enquirer, the Woman herself remaining still in trouble of Spirit, and desiring the Prayers of all good Christians to Almighty God for his Grace, that as by the same in this grievous and terrible trial, so at all times hereafter, she may be enabled to withstand the wiles of the Tempter.

